

HOUSE RESOLUTION 325

By McDaniel

A RESOLUTION providing for a study of the equine industry in Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the equine industry represents an estimated \$290 million dollar business in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, as important as the equine industry is to Tennessee's economy, both in terms of agriculture and tourism, there are indications that we may be losing a significant segment of our equine industry to other states; and

WHEREAS, this reduction in our equine industry may be due to innovative programs established in other states, notably Kentucky, that provide substantial economic incentives for horses born and foaled in the sponsoring state who then evidence superior performance within their respective breeds; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this issue, this General Assembly needs to identify other ways and means to further develop and expand Tennessee's equine industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that the House Agriculture Committee shall conduct a study of Tennessee's equine industry, with an emphasis on identifying ways and means to encourage further development of such industry in our State, including, but not limited to, establishing an incentive program for Tennessee horse breeders and owners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Agriculture Committee shall seek input and information from representatives of Tennessee's equine industry, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Tourist Development, the Tennessee Farm Bureau, and other interested parties during the course of such study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all appropriate state agencies shall provide assistance to the House Agriculture Committee with respect to such study upon request of the Chairman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all members of the House Agriculture Committee of the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly who are duly elected members of the General Assembly shall participate in such study until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Agriculture Committee shall be convened to conduct such study by the Chairman of such committee for the One Hundred Fifth General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the House Agriculture Committee shall timely report its findings and recommendations relative to Tennessee's equine industry, including any proposed legislation, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than February 1, 2009.